



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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December 1, 2017

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director *WJH*  
Exceptional Children Division

RE: Deaf-Blind Professional Learning

The NC Department of Public Instruction's Exceptional Children Division along with the NC Deaf-Blind Project (NCDBP) and Teacher Support Program at East Carolina University (ECU TSP) invites participants to attend the Empowerment Through Touch: Haptic Training professional development workshop. The two-day workshop will be held January 22-23, 2018, at Extraordinary Ventures in Chapel Hill. The workshop will begin at 9:00a.m. and end at 4:00p.m. each day. Lunch is provided as part of the training experience.

According to the National Center of Deaf-Blindness website, "Touch signals is a method of providing visual and environmental information to an individual who is deaf-blind discreetly and in real time. This information allows a person who is deaf-blind to make informed choices and decisions based on a more complete picture of their situation. The course will provide an overview of touch signals with a specific focus on Haptic Communication. Haptics, developed in Norway, is a standardized system with a fixed set of signals performed in a specific way."

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the touch communication system that provides information to people who are deaf-blind through pictures that are drawn discreetly. The touch communication system includes Tactile Sign Language, Touch Cues and Touch Signals. Presenters for this professional development will be Marilyn Trader, the Helen Keller Southeast Regional Representative and Ashley Benton, the Deaf/Deaf-Blind Services Coordinator with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Participants will earn 1.4 professional CEUs upon successful completion of the training.

ECU TSP will provide travel and lodging for (a maximum of) 15 individuals who are working with learners with deaf-blindness and on the NC DB Census. Contact Sandra Warren ([warrens@ecu.edu](mailto:warrens@ecu.edu)) by December 21 if you would like to receive support.

The NCDBP will also provide travel and lodging support for 10 educators who are working with learners with deaf-blindness and on the NC DB Census. Contact Dottie Snyder ([Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov)) by December 18th if you would like to receive support. Please contact either Sandra or Dottie, not both.

Please use the following link below to register by January 12, 2018.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/haptics-power-through-touch-workshop-tickets-38503549152>

For additional information, please email Dottie Snyder at [Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov) or Sandra Warren at [warrens@ecu.edu](mailto:warrens@ecu.edu)

WJH/DM/DS/mt

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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